



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **EUROPE'S LUNG HEALTH EXPERTS DISCUSS CHALLENGES AND SHARE LATEST RESEARCH AT PARIS CONFERENCE**

*44<sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on Lung Health is taking place  
at the Palais des Congrès in Paris from 30 October-3 November 2013*

**31 October 2013/ Paris, France** – A week after the World Health Organization reported that Europe and Africa are the two regions not on track to meet tuberculosis mortality and prevalence targets, leading European lung health experts will gather in Paris for the 44<sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on Lung Health. Held annually by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), the conference draws delegates from 125 countries to address lung health issues including the threats posed by TB and multidrug-resistant TB, air pollution, tobacco control, and asthma.

Europe continues to be a hot spot for multidrug- and extensively drug-resistant TB, according to the WHO Global TB Report 2013 released in London last week. A further disturbing trend is that only 48% of these difficult-to-treat TB cases are detected worldwide. Other issues for Europe that will be discussed are the rate of childhood asthma and progress towards tobacco control. Highlights include:

#### **TB and MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS (MDR-TB)**

- “DR-TB Drugs under the Microscope”: Médecins Sans Frontières and The Union will launch the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this important report on Wednesday, 30 October 2013 (09:00-10:00, Room 234–235, Palais des Congrès)
- “The Challenge of MDR-TB: Globally, in Europe and in France” will be the subject of a press conference on Wednesday, 30 October 2013 (12:45–13:45, Room 242B, Palais des Congrès). English/French/English translation will be provided. Speakers will include:
  - Dr Mario Raviglione, Director of the Global TB Programme, WHO Switzerland
  - Dr Masoud Dara, TB and MDR-/XDR-TB Control Programme, WHO Europe
  - Prof Vincent Jarlier, French National Reference Laboratory for TB
- Researchers from seven countries will present their latest research and experiences in a half-day workshop “Health systems in transition: TB control in the countries of the former Soviet Union” on Thursday, 31 October (09:00–12:00, Room 251, Palais des Congrès). English/Russian/English translation will be provided.
- Results of a European multi-centre study of the limitations of a diagnostic test for latent TB infection will be presented at a symposium on Saturday, 02 November 2013 (08:00 - 10:00, Room 243, Palais des Congrès).
- A computer model developed by the London School of Tropical Medicine and other partners in The Union’s TREAT TB initiative that uses virtual implementation to help with decision-making and scale-up of new TB diagnostic tools will be presented at “Can new diagnostic tools reduce the time to appropriate treatment initiation?” on Saturday, 2 November 2013 (14:30–16:30, Amphithéâtre Bleu, Palais des Congrès). Results of

research evaluating the efficacy of line probe assays, conducted in the prisons and civil sector of Arkhangelsk, Russia will also be presented at this session.

- A UK project providing social support for patients with TB in London will be presented at the symposium “Strategies for social support” on Saturday, 02 November 2013(14:30–16:30, Room 241, Palais des Congrès).
- Use of Xpert MTB/RIF in mobile X-ray units to test homeless people in the UK for TB will be featured at “Communities with a heavy burden of TB imposed by poverty and marginalisation” on Sunday, 03 November 2013 (14:00–16:00, Room 241, Palais des Congrès).

#### **AIR POLLUTION AND LUNG HEALTH**

- “Air Pollution and Lung Health” will be the focus of a press conference on Thursday, 31 October 2013 (12:45–13:45, Room 234–235 M, Palais des Congrès). This event will include an opportunity to interview the conference keynote speaker in advance of his speech on Thursday at 17:30.
  - Prof Ross Anderson, WHO Scientific Advisory Committees for the Review of Evidence of Health Aspects of Air Pollution and Health Risks of Air Pollution in Europe: “Indoor and outdoor air pollution and asthma”
  - Emmanuelle Beguinot, Director, CNCT (Comité National Contre le Tabac): “Tobacco Control in France”
- “Air pollution and asthma”: The Sir John Crofton Memorial Lecture by Prof Ross Anderson, Thursday, 31 October (17:30–18:15, Grand Amphithéâtre, Palais des Congrès).
- A German study on the health benefits of reducing indoor air pollution will be presented in “Climatic change and environmental air pollution”, a symposium on Friday, 01 November 2013 (08:00–10:00, Room 342A, Palais des Congrès)

#### **TOBACCO CONTROL AND SECOND-HAND SMOKE**

- UK-based projects designed to measure exposure to second-hand smoke in the home and car will be featured in the symposium, “Reducing second-hand smoke exposure in the home” on Friday, 01 November 2013 (08:00–10:00, Room 253, Palais des Congrès)
- Behaviour change studies from Belgium and the UK will be presented in the symposium “Educational and behaviour change approaches towards tobacco control” on Friday, 01 November 2013 (14:30–16:30, Room 253, Palais des Congrès).

“People tend to be less aware of their lung health than of other health indicators, such as weight and blood pressure”, says José Luis Castro, Interim Executive Director of The Union. “But lung health is essential to life, and every country needs to be prepared to manage airborne infections like MDR-TB, as well as to be vigilant in providing protection against the far-reaching negative health impacts of air pollution and tobacco use”.

Further details about the 44th Union World Conference on Lung Health are available at:

<http://www.worldlunghealth.org/conf2013/>.

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### **About the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)**

The mission of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) is to bring innovation, expertise, solutions and support to address health challenges in low- and middle-income populations. With nearly 15,000 members and subscribers from 150 countries, The Union has its headquarters in Paris and offices serving the Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America and South-East Asia regions. Its scientific departments focus on tuberculosis and HIV, lung health and non-communicable diseases, tobacco control and research. Learn more at [www.theunion.org](http://www.theunion.org)

### **About the 44th Union World Conference on Lung Health**

Since the early 1920s, The Union has been convening international conferences to disseminate the latest research on tuberculosis and other related issues, such as HIV/AIDS, asthma, pneumonia, non-communicable diseases and tobacco control. Some 2,500 delegates from 125 countries attend the 5-day scientific programme. For complete details, go to [www.worldlunghealth.org](http://www.worldlunghealth.org)

### **HOW TO COVER THE CONFERENCE IN PERSON / USING ONLINE RESOURCES:**

Complete details about the 44<sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on Lung Health may be found on the conference website at [www.worldlunghealth.org](http://www.worldlunghealth.org). Download the conference programme at [worldlunghealth.org/conf2013/images/1\\_Paris2013/Forms/Final\\_Prog\\_2013.pdf](http://worldlunghealth.org/conf2013/images/1_Paris2013/Forms/Final_Prog_2013.pdf) and the Abstract Book at <http://www.worldlunghealth.org/conf2013/index.php/programme/abstracts/abstract-book>

The inaugural session and plenary sessions will be available via streaming video at [www.theunion.org](http://www.theunion.org). Daily news, photos and short videos will also be posted on this site during the conference.

Following the conference, webcasts of most sessions will be accessible from [www.worldlunghealth.org](http://www.worldlunghealth.org)

Press credentials permit working journalists to have access to all conference sessions except for closed meetings. Register in person at the Palais des Congrès beginning at 08:00 on Wednesday, 30 October (please bring a press card and/or 2-3 relevant published clips).

Journalists can follow the conference on Twitter: [@UnionConference](https://twitter.com/UnionConference) and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheUnionLungHealth](http://www.facebook.com/TheUnionLungHealth).

**For more information, to arrange an interview with a speaker or to confirm your interest in attending, please RSVP to: Tracey Johnston at [tjohnston@worldlungfoundation.org](mailto:tjohnston@worldlungfoundation.org) or Sabrina Beaubay at [sbeaubay@worldlungfoundation.org](mailto:sbeaubay@worldlungfoundation.org)**